

"(7) in a case concerning an individual, if the consideration for such agreement is based in whole or in part on an unsecured consumer debt, or is based in whole or in part upon a debt for an item of personalty the value of which at point of purchase was \$250 or less, and in which the creditor asserts a purchase money security interest, the court, approves such agreement as—

"(A) in the best interest of the debtor in light of the debtor's income and expenses;

"(B) not imposing an undue hardship on the debtor's future ability of the debtor to pay for the needs of children and other dependents (including court ordered support);

"(C) not requiring the debtor to pay the creditor's attorney's fees, expenses or other costs relating to the collection of the debt;

"(D) not entered into to protect property that is necessary for the care and maintenance of children or other dependents that would have nominal value on repossession;

"(E) not entered into after coercive threats or actions by the creditor in the creditor's course of dealings with the debtor."

(3) in subsection (d)(2) by striking "subsections (c)(6)" and inserting "subsections (c)(6) and (c)(7)", and after "of this section," by striking "if the consideration for such agreement is based in whole or in part on a consumer debt that is not secured by real property of the debtor" and adding at the end: "as applicable".

5. Strike page 66.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EFFORTS TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, yesterday, my colleague Senator GRASSLEY introduced Senate Joint Resolution 56, a bill cosponsored by Senator KYL and me that expresses the sense of Congress in opposing efforts in various States to legalize marijuana and other Schedule I drugs for so-called medical use. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, and I want everyone to understand that current drug laws should not be circumvented by allowing illegal harmful drugs to be introduced freely in our society.

Last week, an identical measure sponsored by Congressman MCCOLLUM passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 310 to 93.

Mr. President, proponents of legalization argue that marijuana and other drugs are needed by those living with pain and disease. They stress that these drugs improve the quality of life and should not be denied to those suffering. I understand their argument that we need to be compassionate to those that are suffering. My heart goes out to those people living with disease and to the families that care for them. Nevertheless, those arguments are flawed, and we cannot allow this legalization effort to contravene our Federal drug laws.

In 1996, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing and examined the drug legalization initiatives in California and Arizona. We heard testimony from many of those involved in the war on drugs including General Barry R. McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Mr. Thomas A. Constantine, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration. As a result of chairing that hearing, I learned that there is overwhelming evidence showing that marijuana is not a medicine and that its use by those suffering from cancer and other diseases is contradicted by the many side effects of the drug use. The testimony given at that hearing proved to me that the growing legalization movement in our States is harmful to the very people they are proposing to help.

As many of you know, I have not been afraid to speak out and to urge that this administration do more to stem the rising tide against teenage drug abuse in our country. Illegal drug use by teenagers is one of the most serious domestic problems facing our Nation today: in my mind, it may be the most crucial issue for our Nation's ability to craft productive and law-abiding citizens. The worsening problem of drug abuse among our children and teens wreaks havoc on the lives and potential of thousands of young people each year. Legalization movements send a confusing message to the Nation's youth and threaten to increase the already alarming rise in drug use among teenagers. If we do not act decisively, we will pay a heavy price.

For example, the results of the latest National Household Survey on Drug Abuse found that drug use among our children is climbing at an alarming rate. The number of children ages 12 to 17 using illicit drugs has more than doubled since 1992. Between 1996 and 1997 alone, drug use among 12- and 13-year-olds increased almost 75 percent.

The abuse of marijuana, a drug many widely consider a gateway drug to more serious substance abuse, more than doubled among children between 1992 and 1997, increasing 75 percent between 1996 and 1997 alone. Not surprisingly, the rate of minors first trying heroin is at its highest level in 30 years, and the rate of minors trying cocaine and hallucinogens has more than doubled in the 90's.

Although deeply troubling, this disturbing trend should come as no surprise to this administration. I warned this administration as early as 1993 that its failure to take the issue seriously and take strong action to fight drug abuse would prove disastrous to our children. Unfortunately, the evidence is now in and my predictions were all too prophetic to the great detriment of our children and future generations.

Our country's laws prohibiting narcotic and dangerous drug use are not arbitrary. These laws are designed to protect our children and to protect ma-

ture adults from harmful chemicals. These laws should be fully enforced because they help prevent drug experimentation and drug addiction.

Promoting the use of marijuana for so-called medical purposes is nothing more than a sham effort to legalize drugs through the back door. If we do not act decisively, we will pay a heavy price.

In the words of General McCaffrey, our Drug Czar, "[addictive drugs were criminalized because they are harmful; they are not harmful because they were criminalized.]" The more a product is available and legitimized, the greater will be its use. If drugs were legalized in the U.S., the cost to the individual and society would grow astronomically.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is the key law by which legitimate drug products are evaluated and regulated in this country. A central precept of this law is that all drugs be proven safe and effective under their labeled indications. Proponents of medicinal uses of marijuana should not be exempt from this basic public health requirement. Anecdotal reports that marijuana may be beneficial should not cloud the fact that only controlled clinical trials can meet the exacting licensure requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. If there is, in fact, a medical benefit from marijuana then it is imperative that the necessary scientific studies be conducted to assess and confirm such benefit. To date, proponents of medical uses of marijuana have been unwilling or unable to come through the front door of the FDA with evidence of its safety and efficacy. The pharmacological armamentarium contains many proven drugs to treat pain. It is poor public policy to acquiesce in back door mechanisms that permit unsafe and unproven products like marijuana to reach the bedsides of American patients.

I believe this to be an important resolution and urge my colleagues to join me and Senators GRASSLEY and KYL in sending a clear message to those who advocate the legalization of marijuana and other Schedule I drugs for medical use in our States. I ask for their support when this joint resolution comes to the floor.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ANDRES PASTRANA ARANGO, PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on August 7, 1998, Andres Pastrana Arango was sworn in as the 60th President of Colombia, 28 years after his father, Misael Pastrana, took the same oath of office. A former journalist, mayor of Bogota, and Senator, president candidate Andres Pastrana swept into office with the largest electoral margin in his country's history.

With the election of President Pastrana I believe that a new opportunity has been created for the United